



## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Make sure you have put the 7th of Dec. on your calendar. This is the date for our annual Christmas Party at Mary's Pizza Shack in Boyes Springs. Festivities start at 6:00pm.

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of John Sharpe, W6TWQ. He died on Tuesday, Nov. 29th. There will be a rosary said in his memory at Duggins Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00pm. On Saturday, at 11:00 am, there will be a funeral mass for him at St Francis Solano church.

John was a member of VOMARC for over 30 years, was a past president and club historian. He also was a member of our ACS unit. (see page 4)

The club officers for next year will be same as this year. Thanks to all officers for stepping up for the club.

The next Young Eagles event at Sonoma Skypark will be on Jan. 8, 2012.

On behalf of all the officers, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

—73 Jim K6UW

## Palm Springs Hamfest!

January 28, 2012, 9:30- 4:30 PM

Entry fee only \$2

Over 25 Commercial Vendors such as HRO, CQ Magazine and Manufacturers like Alinco ; Elecraft;

Swap Meet, Consignment sales bring your surplus gear and we'll sell it off for you, Raffles all day long

Food Concession, various how to Demos. no charge for Vendor or Swap Meet space .we have a few commercial spaces and lots of swap meet space still available book early!-- setup time for Swap Meet sellers 7-9 AM Special Events Station 7.251 & 14.251 or digital check <http://www.dxsummit.fi/> to spot us

Presented by the Desert RATS Club of Palm Springs \*\*see our Forum at <http://desertrats.am/> for up to date information

Ratpeater Talkin 146.940- PL 107.2 in Palm Springs or 146.520 (convoy frequency) Convoy of RV's from Quartzfest on January 27th headed by Gordon West!

Last year over 700 happy Hams rendezvous at Palm Springs Hamfest hope to see you on January 28, 2012 Hours from 9:30AM to 4:30PM for more information go to our website <http://desertrats.am> email: [PalmSprings.hamfest@gmail.com](mailto:PalmSprings.hamfest@gmail.com)

4193 Mathew Drive, Palm Springs ARRL - Palm Springs Hamfest 2012 January 28, 2012 hosted by the Desert RATS Club , Palm Springs,CA --go to the Forum section at <http://desertrats.am> for up to date information or call Gary or Susie Boskovich at 760-321-6012

## Minutes for November 16

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable President, Jim Hill, K6UUW at 7:37 PM on November 16, 2011.

**Introductions** There were 17 members in attendance. Members in attendance were, K6KLL, N7PIB, N6PWV, WB6TMH, N6KM, W1EJ, WD6BOR, KJ6PDD, KI6DHG, KI6FFM, KF6FZM, NJ6E, KG6N, KJ6DPZ, KA2QO, K6UUW, and KD6FIL.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes, as published in the newsletter, were approved without corrections. The newsletter had wrong date for the Christmas party. The date for the Christmas party is December 7.

**Vice President:** We are going to try and get one of the developers for Byonics, the people who developed the TinyTracker, to come and give a presentation in January. It was requested that club members write what they would like to see at club meetings on a slip of paper and turn it in. We are looking for programs that people would like to see. The club is putting together a field trip, probably in January, to the KRE radio museum where all of Frank Jones material is on display.

**Secretary:** We have not started the paper work for field day. Where do we want to have it?

**Treasurer:** There is \$1758.30 in the bank after purchase of the FT950 radio for the club. The Vice President said the radio is really nice to operate CW on. We have not purchased the pelican case that was authorized at the last meeting. Dues for next year are due.

**Radio Officer:** WB6TMH, no news.

**ACS:** ACS is the program for the night.

**Website:** It looks good. If anyone sees anything that needs to be changed let Jim or Eileen know.

### Old Business

The tour of KRE Radio museum will be in January on a Saturday. We have not picked a date yet. Stay tuned. A notice will be sent out when the day and time are decided.

Young Eagles had a very good turn out on Sunday, November 13 at the Sonoma Skypark. 25 kids got to fly with 8 aircraft and pilots on the flight line. The club station was set up and a number of DX contacts were made, including Belgium, France and Tuvalu. The next Young Eagles will be Sunday, January 8, weather permitting. Anyone interested in supporting the Skypark can stop by for a hamburger or hotdog every Saturday at the clubhouse from noon to 1:30. The profits go to fund scholarships for sending kids to summer camp at Oshkosh.

The club's R7 vertical got some new radials added to it and it will tune up on 6 meters, but there is no guarantee as to how well it will radiate. Maybe we can test it out during the next vhf contest!

There was discussion on where to have Field Day next year. Jim was going to check on a possible hill top location.

The club received a notice about a hamfest in Palm Springs on January 28 from 9:30 to 4:30. It would be a nice place to go to get out of the weather.

It was moved and approved that we send Darcy at the PD a box of chocolates for her assistance in scheduling the use of the EOC for club meetings.

N6P will be in August if there is interest. Ken will go ahead and request the call sign. We can work on the other details next spring. It might be worth a scouting trip to evaluate antenna locations.

### New Business

Digital modes on the new club radio would be a lot easier if we had a Signalink soundcard interface from Tigertronics. It was moved, seconded and approved to order a Signalink box for the FT950. It should be in the \$120 price range.

November is Officer Election time. The nomination of officers was completed and remained the same as last year, with no one else running. The officers were unanimously reelected. Jim, K6UUW is President, Ed, W1EJ is Vice President, Desmond, KJ6DPZ is Treasurer and Dave, KD6FIL is Secretary.

We do not have VE dates set for 2012 yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PMish

The program tonight is the Auxiliary Communications Service.

—Dave KD6FIL, Secretary

## Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

BY Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech ([www.twit.tv](http://www.twit.tv)), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says “Zero!” and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don’t take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don’t make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, “OK, here’s the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month.” Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don’t get on the air?

So, if you’re a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, “making time for things you love.” I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled “make time for hobbies” and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your

Creative Hobby!

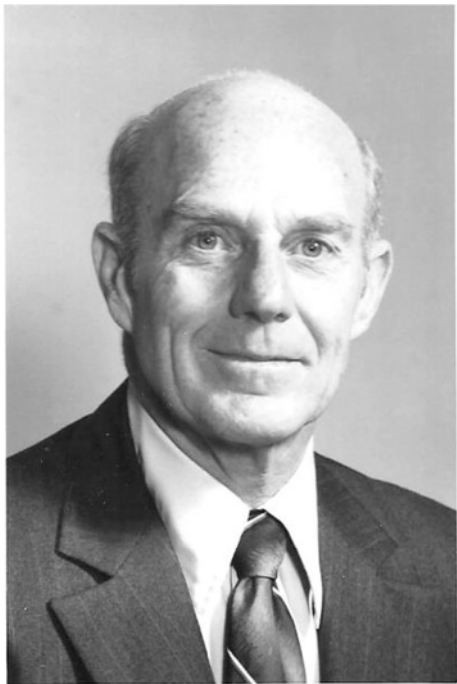
(<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you’re going to do ham radio. Don’t let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a “shack” and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it’s a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you’re a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you’ll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There’s so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that’s one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you’ll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

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When he’s not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at [www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). Make some time to e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



**John S. Sharpe**



John S. Sharpe passed away on Nov. 27, 2011, at the age of 93 in Sonoma.

He was born in 1918, to Walter E. Sharpe and Caroline Scholl Sharpe in Michigan City, Ind. The family moved to California in 1921. John grew up in the oil company town of Avon and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Concord with the class of 1936.

He entered the United States Army in 1941 and served throughout World War II and Korea and retired after 20 years of service. During his Army career, John was stationed in Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, Korea, Japan, Germany and numerous bases in the United States. He retired from the Army in 1964 and returned to Larkspur, where he had owned a home since 1945 and began a second career with Eastman Kodak Company in San Francisco as a field service specialist and supervisor. Following his 15-year career with Kodak, John retired a second time in 1980 and moved to Sonoma, where he married Vivian Spencer in 1985.

John's hobbies were many upon his retirement. He was a member of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club and actively worked with

the emergency communications of the Sonoma Police Department. He also became glider pilot. With no prior flying experience, at the age of 76, he accomplished his life long dream to fly a glider and earned a pilot's certificate.

John is survived by his beloved wife of 26 years, Vivian Spencer Sharpe, of Sonoma; two beloved sons, John E. Sharpe and W. Clay Sharpe, of Albuquerque, N.M.; his former wife, Opal F. Sharpe, of Albuquerque; stepdaughters, Judith and Daveen Spencer, of Petaluma; a grandson, four granddaughters, four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, including Marion Williams, of Sonoma.

Friends are invited to attend a visitation at Duggan's Mission Chapel, 525 W. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476 on Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at 3 p.m. followed by a rosary at 7 p.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Solano Church, 300 W. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476 at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011.

Interment will follow the Mass at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 90 First St. W., Sonoma, CA 95476.

Donations may be made to the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club, 175 First St. W., Sonoma or to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements under the direction of Duggan's Mission Chapel, 525 W. Napa St., Sonoma, CA.

—Reprinted from the *Sonoma Index Tribune*  
Date Published: Dec 1, 2011 - 02:39 PM

**2011 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2011 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE VOMARC WIRELESS  
VOLUME 15 EDITION 11**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of  
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma  
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire  
Station on 2<sup>nd</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local  
(7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30  
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350  
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on  
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station  
is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of  
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,  
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at  
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**175 First Street West**  
**Sonoma, CA 95476**

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**THE NEXT MEETING IS OUR HOLIDAY DINNER, WED, DECEMBER 7, 2011 at the MARY'S  
PIZZA SHACK IN BOYES SPRINGS at 6PM  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2011**    Membership Dues:   \$15/year individual;      \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).  
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.  
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.